

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) Method for determining the moisture content of ~~growing substrate~~ a quantity of soil comprising:

- determining the volume of ~~a~~ the quantity of ~~growing substrate~~ soil,
- determining the weight of the quantity of ~~growing substrate~~ soil,
- determining the specific density from the volume and the weight, and
- finally determining the moisture content by comparing the specific density with a table containing moisture content and specific density information for the soil.

2. (Currently amended) Method for preparing ~~growing substrate~~ a quantity of soil with a predetermined moisture content comprising:

- determining the volume of ~~a~~ the quantity of ~~growing substrate~~ soil,
- determining the weight of the quantity of ~~growing substrate~~ soil,
- determining the specific density of the quantity of ~~growing substrate~~ soil from the volume and weight;
- determining the moisture content of the quantity of ~~growing substrate~~ soil;
- calculating the additional amount of water necessary to obtain the predetermined moisture content of the quantity of ~~growing substrate~~ soil, and
- adding water to the quantity of ~~growing substrate~~ soil until the weight associated with the desired moisture content is obtained.

3. (Currently amended) Method as claimed in claim 2 further comprising, after adding the water, mixing the ~~growing substrate~~ soil with the water.

4. (Currently amended) Apparatus for determining the moisture content of ~~growing substrate~~ soil comprising:

- a supply vessel placed on a weighing device to obtain a measured weight of the ~~growing substrate~~ soil;

-a feed device for feeding predetermined volumes of ~~growing-substrate~~soil to the supply vessel;  
-a discharge device to release the ~~growing-substrate~~soil from the supply vessel; and  
-a computer for determining the moisture content from the predetermined volume and the measured weight;  
wherein the feed device comprises a conveyor belt.

5. (Currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 4 wherein the feed device comprises a ~~conveyor belt which further~~ comprises a measuring member for measuring the height of the ~~growing-substrate~~soil carried along on the conveyor belt, and that the computer is adapted to determine from the measured height the quantity of ~~growing-substrate~~soil carried along on the conveyor belt.

6. (Previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 5 wherein the measuring member comprises a laser source and a laser detector, wherein these elements are adapted to determine the height of the material carried along on the conveyor belt.

7. (Previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 5 further comprising a leveling device placed above the conveyor belt upstream of the measuring member for leveling to a uniform height the material carried along on the conveyor belt.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 4 wherein the supply vessel is tiltable.

10. (Currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 4 wherein the apparatus is also suitable for preparing ~~growing-substrate~~soil with the desired moisture content in that a water supply device is placed above the supply vessel in order to supply water to the supply vessel.

11. (Previously presented) Apparatus as claimed claim 4 wherein the apparatus is provided with a dispensing device for dispensing additives.

12. (Previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 6 further comprising a leveling device placed above the conveyor belt upstream of the measuring member for leveling to a uniform height the material carried along on the conveyor belt.

13. (Previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 5 wherein the supply vessel is tiltable.

14. (Previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 6 wherein the supply vessel is tiltable.

15. (Previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 7 wherein the supply vessel is tiltable.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 7 wherein the apparatus is also suitable for preparing ~~growing substrates~~soil with the desired moisture content in that a water supply device is placed above the supply vessel in order to supply water to the supply vessel.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) Apparatus as claimed claim 6 wherein the apparatus is provided with a dispensing device for dispensing additives.

20. (Previously presented) Apparatus as claimed claim 10 wherein the apparatus is provided with a dispensing device for dispensing additives.